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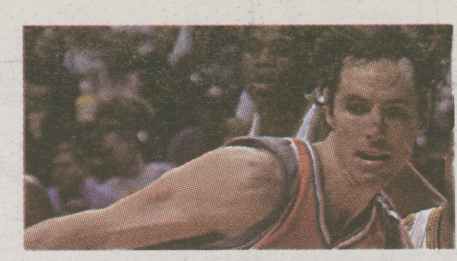

Local boy Steve Nash makes good
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Revealing dirty laundry for 58 years

# MARTLET

Thursday, May 19, 2005 | The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper | www.martlet.ca | Volume 58, Issue 1

## Architecture for Canadian Communities

pages 6 & 7

ANGELA ANDERSEN PHOTO

# Hybrid vehicles a breath of fresh air

by Patrick Szpak

AARON MCMILLAN PHOTO

**BC Transit recently acquired five hybrid buses, three of which will be used in Victoria.**

Ken Wardroper, president and shareholder of Victoria's Bluebird Cabs and veteran taxi driver of 30 years, believes that he has one of the nicest cabs in Victoria: a top of line Buick Park Avenue with all the options.

"It even turns the wipers on automatically when it rains," said Wardroper. Despite the luxury and undisputable comfort of his ride, Wardroper admits that sometimes he is greeted not with approving nods from his fares, but with expressions of mild disappointment.

"They say that they were hoping they would get to ride in a hybrid," said Wardroper, referring to one of five hybrid-engine Toyota Prius used by Bluebird Cabs.

Wardroper's customers' hopes and expectations are becoming more the norm in a society aware of both the environmental costs of greenhouse gas emitting automobiles and the economic costs of rising fuel prices. Slowly, government and businesses have begun to respond to these concerns.

BC Transit unveiled the first of six new hybrid buses, the first in Canada, in Kelowna in May. The buses are being manufactured by New Flyer, the largest manufacturer of buses in North America. Another three of the buses will be used in Victoria.

"BC Transit is committed to identifying and adopting new technologies for public transit," said Greg Slocombe, chair of BC Transit. "As well as environmental quality advantages, the hybrid electric buses has major advantages in lower fuel costs."

Tests done on the new buses show fuel savings as high as 58 per cent each year, or 100,000 litres. Greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced by 60 per cent each year.

Unfortunately, the hybrid buses, which use electric motors to capture the energy used in braking to help power the bus, come with a hefty $300,000 markup on the usual $530,000 price tag.

However, savings on fuel and maintenance costs are significant, and BC Transit predicts that they will have paid for the buses within 10–12 years. BC Transit buses are typically kept in service for 20 years.

Over 300 hybrid buses have been sold in North America, and orders continue to come in. Skeptics of government purchasing and predictions need only look at Ken Wardroper's Bluebird cabs to see that hybrid vehicles make good business and environmental sense for high-use automobiles.

Despite the relatively high cost of buying a new hybrid, 15 per cent of Bluebird's cabs, which are owner operated, are now the hybrid Toyota Prius.

"Our younger shareholders who are buying new cabs are opting for the hybrid," said Wardroper. "If I were at that stage in my career, I would do the same thing."

Like the hybrid buses, the cabs benefit from lower maintenance and fuel costs and emit far fewer greenhouse gases. "Drivers save anywhere from $700 to $900 per month on fuel" with the new hybrids, said Wardroper. "That's money directly in their pockets, and more than makes up for the monthly payment on the car."

Many of the younger drivers are "much more tuned in to the environment," said Wardroper, and are more informed than he was earlier in his career. "That's a good thing."

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# UVic set to bike to work

by Bryna Hallam

Students and staff at UVic are gearing up for the 11th annual Bike to Work Week (BTWW) May 30–June 5.

"Bike to Work Week is a focal point for introducing people to commuter cycling," said UVic sustainability co-ordinator Sarah Webb.

People are encouraged to join a team and ride their bikes to work for the week. With two weeks to go, UVic already had 43 registered teams, and Webb anticipates more will form before the kickoff. UVic had 51 teams and over 700 participants in last year's BTWW.

One of this year's team is made up of University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS) board members.

"It's important for the UVSS to help keep students' sustainable options open," said UVSS Chair Penny Beames. "We really want to encourage students to bike to school. It's a lot of fun and it's environmentally friendly."

To add to the fun there will be a number of events on campus, including cycling support stations with juice and cookies, a team barbeque on June 1 and bike maintenance courses. Campus Security will also be doing free bike engraving during the week.

The university, the Capital Regional District Traffic Safety Commission and Bike to Work Victoria are also offering free cycling skills workshops. The workshops are taught by nationally certified cycling instructors and are designed to improve confidence and skill on the road.

For more information visit www.biketoworkvictoria.ca or call Webb at 472-5011 for a team captain's package.

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# Arena still under construction

by Tim Boultbee

Nearly two years of "completion dates" have come and gone, but the end may finally be in sight.

The *Times Colonist* reported March 20, 2005 that Victoria's new, $30 million arena was slated to be completed by the end of May.

However, on its website, RG Properties, the company building the facility, will only state "the Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre is now under construction." Even the City of Victoria's website is silent about an exact date, saying only that the arena's doors will open "this year."

The uncertainty regarding the completion of the arena opens other questions: How much work has to be done to finish the job? What will happen if RG Properties fails to complete the facility?

Calls regarding the above questions were not returned by RG Properties and Tartan PR, the company handling media questions about the arena.

The centre was originally scheduled to be completed by the end of August 2004. In an "Arena Update" posted in February 2004 by the City of Victoria, however, City Council had already extended the completion date to November 15, 2004.

By June, it seemed that progress was being made, as Victoria councilors were advised that the developer "continues to strive for a November 15, 2004 opening date." Yet, by the August Update, the project had once again "fallen behind schedule" and a new opening date was set for the first two months of 2005.

One of the concerns RG Properties gave regarding the delay in completing the 7,000 seat facility was a "shortage of labour both skilled and unskilled."

Colin Graham, Secretary-Treasurer of the Victoria Labour Council, said in an interview that RG's claim is both "true and false." Graham explained that while there is a building boom in Victoria, RG Properties "weren't prepared to pay union rates." The company, Graham claims, was trying to increase its profits by hiring workers for wages far less than the union rates. "I've heard that workers are being paid $12 to $15 an hour," he said, adding, "If [RG Properties] had gone to a local company [they] wouldn't have had so many problems."

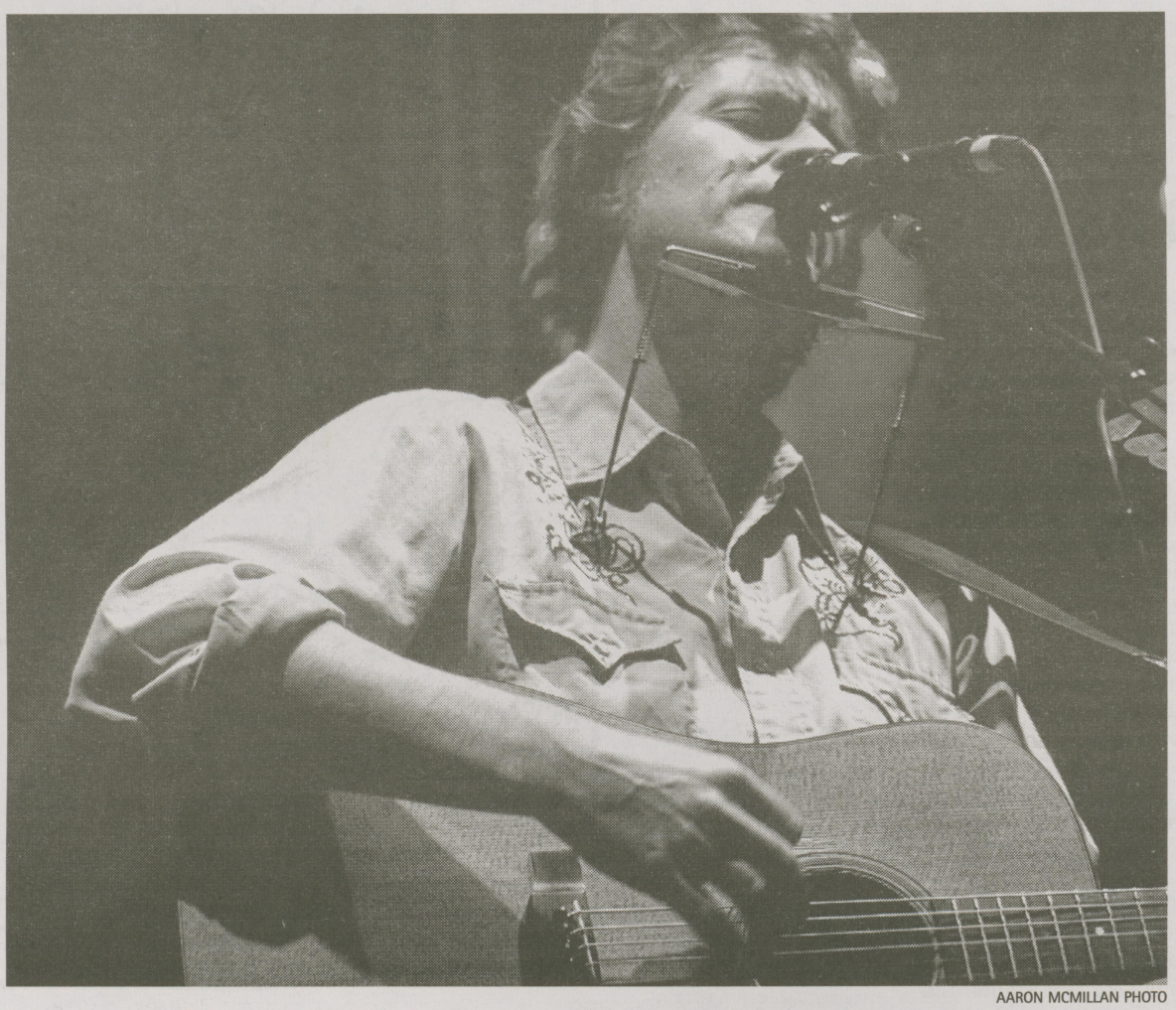
But getting the Centre completed as promised has only been one ripple in its short history. Many people in the Victoria region were upset when the Overwaitea Food Group, a company owned by Vancouver billionaire Jimmy Pattison, bought the ten-year naming rights to the Centre. They called it the after their grocery store division: Save-On-Foods.

The day after the March 31 announcement, a local radio station, CFAX, polled listeners for their thoughts on giving commercial rights to a landmark building. Of the 286 respondents, 67 per cent said they disapproved of the idea.

Even the 4.3 metre sculpture called Pavilion, Rock and Shell on the southwest corner of the facility by artist Mowry Baden caused an uproar as some people thought the work was anything but art.

Despite the setbacks and criticism, the unfinished facility opened for its first concert—a performance by Rod Stewart on March 26—thanks to receiving a last-minute occupancy permit.

That concert was followed by a performance by Cher and The Village People on April 24. The arena also hosted the Men's World Curling Championship April 2–10.



AARON MCMILLAN PHOTO

**Blue Rodeo lead Jim Cuddy rocks out at the soon-to-be-finished Save-On-Foods Centre April 14.**

## View from the inside

### Delay has not affected shows at Save-On-Foods Centre

While the new arena is still in the process of being completed, it appears that the shows have gone on without any major problems.

With big name acts such as Cher, Rod Stewart, and Blue Rodeo already having come and gone, the only issues regarding the incompletion seem to be cosmetic.

Inside, certain areas remain unfinished: drywall is exposed, railings are unfastened. This hasn't deterred the public, though. The areana has already seen a number of shows performed to packed houses.

Although not a sellout, the Blue Rodeo show provided a great display of Canadian talent.

On April 14 the *Are You Ready* tour played to a group of middle-aged rockers. Slow and lacking energy at the start, the show didn't pick up until well past the halfway mark.

This seems to have been the overriding theme in the majority of events to visit the arena so far. With the exception of Avril Lavigne, all seem to be targeting the 40 to 75-year-old age class.

Given the age demographics of Victoria, this seems appropriate but raises the question: will we ever see the likes of Pearl Jam, or forever be doomed to good but quasi-boring rock concerts?

*—Aaron McMillan*

# Funding increase for Access UVic

## Referendum gives advocacy group additional $26,000 per year

by Jennifer McFee

The last day of classes is a time to celebrate, and members of Access UVic added some icing to end-of-term festivities. The group served free cake in the Student Union Building (SUB) on April 8 to thank students for their support in a recent referendum to increase funding for the organization.

"We promised cake from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and we brought out a fresh cake just about every hour on the hour. At 3 p.m. we had exactly one piece left," said Rose Mariana Robb, Access UVic co-ordinator. "Erica Weiss and Morgan York, Access members who did most of the serving, had a chance to personally thank many students."

As they handed out almost 400 plates of dessert, Weiss, York, and other members of the organization expressed their gratitude for the 1,975 votes cast in favour of the funding increase. The referendum was held during the University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS) elections in early March.

As a result of the vote, Access UVic will receive one dollar from every full-time student and 50 cents from every part-time student.

Access UVic president Paige Muttersbach said that members are "ecstatic" about the referendum results, which she estimated will bring an additional $26,000 per year to the organization.

However, despite a majority of voters who supported the funding increase, 500 students voted against the referendum, with the largest percentage of "no" votes coming from the polling booth in the Engineering Lab Wing.

Joanna Groves, UVSS Chairperson at the time of the vote, said that the tuition increases of the past several years may have influenced referendum opposition.

"There's a lot of students that are just opposed to any fee increases," said Groves. "Even with the 500 'no' votes, that's still an amazing support for a referendum. I think people should focus on the 2,000 who said 'yes' rather than the 500 who didn't."

According to referendum spokesperson Kyla Berry, Access UVic members will decide over the summer how they will use the extra funding.

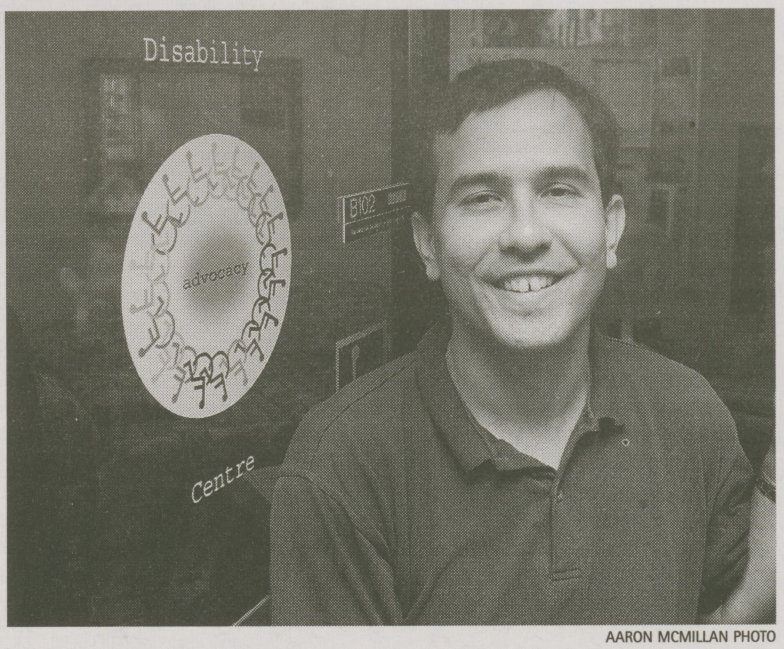
"We deeply appreciate the 80 per cent 'yes' vote. We feel reassured that we are welcome at university and we look forward to making more of a contribution in many areas of campus life next year," said Berry.

"Access UVic offers advocacy. It's a place for change. We want to change the university. There is a lot of humour here, too. We can laugh about some of the obstacles we run into. It is a safe place to laugh, vent or cry."

Robb added that, compared to other Canadian universities, UVic is "not a leader" in accessibility. However, she noted that Access UVic, which serves about 500 students, plays a positive role on campus.

"The greatest strength is that disabled students have organized themselves and clearly enjoy solid support, including financial support, from non-disabled students," said Robb. "We are also available to support any student at UVic who self-identifies as disabled but does not want to do so officially."

For more information about the services provided by Access UVic, call 472-4389 or drop by their office at B102 in the SUB.




AARON MCMILLAN PHOTO

**Access UVic volunteer Mike Mori outside the Access office in the SUB.**

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# Editorial

# Four more dark years

So the big day has come and gone, and it seems we're back where we started with another four years of Gordon Campbell and the Liberals.

After four years of slashes to social programs, it's hardly surprising that the people of B.C. are moving away from the Liberals. Because although the Liberals have another majority government under their belts, the election wasn't nearly the cakewalk of the last election, when they won 77 of 79 seats.

There will once again be opposition in the house, with the NDP winning a respectable 33 seats to the Liberals' 46. It seems B.C. has forgiven the NDP, or at least grown tired of the Liberals and their Edward Scissorhands style of government. Finally, those who don't agree will have a voice in the Legislature.

The danger is that the Liberals will see their victory as support for what they've done in the past four years and continue along the same path.

It's clear that the majority of people do not want to see more of the same. And after a series of devastating cuts to women's centres and healthcare, the elimination of student grants, and skyrocketing tuition fees, the people of B.C. cannot afford to lose any more.

Gordo and company may have gotten a second round, but they've also been sent a strong message: be careful. For while the Liberals managed to retain the majority of the seats in the Legislature, they did not get the majority of the votes.

And this, of course, underlines the problem with our current first-past-the-post electoral system. Combined, the NDP and Green Party garnered 50 per cent of the total vote (41 and 9 per cent respectively), compared to 46 for the Liberals. The Liberals, with less than 50 per cent of the total vote, are representing the majority of British Columbia. Something is wrong with this picture.

It isn't yet known whether the electoral reform referendum is going to change our current system to a single transferable vote system, but the results of this election make it clear that people want a change.

Love 'em or hate 'em, the Liberals gave us exactly what they promised. For better or for worse, 90 per cent of their campaign promises from the last election were fulfilled.

With that in mind, here's what they have promised for post-secondary students in their next term: $450 million for student financial assistance, including loan reductions for students in need, debt relief, a loan forgiveness program and grants for students with disabilities; increased post-secondary funding; tuition increases capped at the rate of inflation; and an expanded student loan reduction program.

It may be election mumbo-jumbo designed to make us forget the past four years, but let's hope they do as well with these promises as with their last batch.

Editorial topics are decided at weekly editorial meetings and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of all staff members.

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ANTHONY FRATTAROLI GRAPHIC

# STV full of flaws

## 'Voters should be proud of themselves for rejecting STV'

**by David Karp**

Single transferable vote (STV) is a horrible voting system. Luckily, enough people realized it, and the initiative failed to achieve the 60 per cent support needed to pass.

Under STV, ridings would be made larger and be represented by two to seven politicians. Instead of voting for one candidate, people would rank candidates in order of preference, and each candidate would need to win a certain quota of votes to be elected. Any candidate who exceeds this quota has their extra votes transferred to voters' next preference. If no candidates meet the quota, the candidate with the least votes is removed. Their votes would be transferred to voters' next preference. This process continues until all seats in the riding are filled.

Sound complicated? That's because it is. Since ridings would be larger, there could be 40 candidates in some ridings. This means that voters will have to sort through 40 names and rank them in order of preference. While people don't have to rank everyone on the ballot, to make full use of the system, they do. How is anyone going to be able to differentiate between their 28th and 29th choice? People already find voting intimidating enough without a baffling STV system.

In fact, when New Zealand switched to STV for health board elections, the number of spoiled ballots increased by 15 times. Over two per cent of ballots were rejected in the 1991 provincial election. So, if spoiled ballots increased 15 fold, we could see 30 per cent of votes being thrown out because people can't figure out how to fill out the ballot. I can't see how that would improve democracy.

Many people mistakenly voted for STV thinking they'd be getting proportional representation. While it might be a little more proportional than the current system, there's no guarantee. In Malta's 1981 STV election, the Labour Party won over half the seats even though the Nationalist Party got more than half the first-choice votes. This prompted a major outcry in Malta, and as a result the country had to amend its constitution.

Essentially, the same problem occurred in the 1996 B.C. election—the NDP won more than half the seats even though the Liberals had more votes. This is the type of result that people voting for STV want to eliminate, yet the Malta example shows that STV doesn't always work.

While some people argue STV provides effective local representation, I can't see how this would be true, as local ridings would be anywhere from two to seven times larger. Under the current system, there is an MLA directly responsible for each riding. Under STV, if a constituent needs to take a problem to an MLA, there would be no single MLA accountable for the riding.

Also, smaller remote communities would be neglected by STV, as it is more efficient for politicians to concentrate on areas of high population density. In large ridings, it would be much more difficult to serve remote communities than in the smaller ridings we currently have.

Others claim STV would produce more minority governments, arguing this is good because it makes the Legislature more representative of peoples' votes. While our current system gives too much power to big parties, STV would give too much power to small parties. In a minority government, smaller parties can wield a lot of clout by being the "king-maker."

For instance, if the Liberals and NDP each get 45 per cent of the seats and the Green party gets 10 per cent, the Green party wields a lot of power because whichever party they support will then have a majority of seats. The Liberals and the NDP would be begging for Green support even though they each have four times more seats than the Greens.

It is symbolic of STV's flaws when Green party leader Adriane Carr "was very disappointed" with a system that would undoubtedly give the Greens a number of seats in the Legislature, and quite possibly the power of king-maker.

In an interview with the *Martlet* earlier this year, Carr questioned the democracy involved in choosing STV, saying "the people of this province who provided input to [the Citizens' Assembly, the group who recommended STV,] called for true proportional representation or mixed member proportional in huge numbers—80 per cent of the input. Only seven per cent of the people recommended to the Citizens' Assembly STV."

I am not arguing that our current system is a good system. It isn't. But STV is worse. It makes politics ever more complex and wonky, which would turn more people off voting. Local representation would get tossed out the window, and small parties would wield excessive power. B.C. voters should be proud of themselves for rejecting STV.

MARTLET
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# Mile Zero hero

## 'Steve Fonyo's face is the face of a cancer survivor and a hero, and it should be celebrated'

**by Aaron Williams**

May 29 marks the 20th anniversary of an important event in Canadian history, but there will be no fanfare or celebration. May 29 marks the date that the black sheep of Canadian heroes completed a journey that is beyond comprehension. A plaque at "Mile 0" recalls the details:

*In commemoration of Stephen Fonyo's run across Canada to raise money on behalf of the Canadian Cancer Society, for cancer education, patient care and research. His "Journey for Lives" covered nearly 8,000 kilometers, starting in St. John's Newfoundland, March 31st 1984, and was completed here May 29th 1985.*

Although the "Journey for Lives" followed in the footsteps of Terry Fox's "The Marathon of Hope," the legacies of Fonyo and Fox are as distinct as Hunter S. Thompson and Martin Luther King.

Although Fox was just 18 when cancer was discovered in his right leg, he already had developed the inner strength of a determined athlete. Inspired by his dream to run across Canada, Fox began months of intensive training.

Fate struck even earlier for Fonyo, with a cancerous tumor forming in his left leg by age 12. The young amputee then endured two long years of chemotherapy, tears and phantom pain. Fonyo grew up watching Terry Fox, but nobody will fully understand which dreams, or nightmares, prompted his epic adventure.

Fox began the "Marathon of Hope" by dipping his artificial limb into the Atlantic Ocean. Venturing west, he nobly accepted every challenge, and bravely underscored the purpose of his quest with heartfelt speeches imploring every Canadian to follow their dreams and to contribute to cancer research. By the time he reached Thunder Bay, cancer had invaded his lungs. Fox returned to B.C. a national hero.

Fonyo began five years later, facing a public that did not want to see him succeed, or even attempt his journey. He became known as a nonconformist teenager, someone who liked to party and cuss. It was not until Fonyo reached Thunder Bay that public perception began to change. After 14 long months, including a relapse scare and a winter in the prairies, Fonyo completed Fox's dream by dipping his artificial limb into Pacific waters at what is now Steve Fonyo beach in Victoria.

Unfortunately, life had another twist for Fonyo. The Order of Canada recipient slipped into drug and alcohol abuse, and his father passed away from cancer. He reached rock bottom in 1996, when he was handed an 18-month conditional sentence for charges ranging from theft to assault with a deadly weapon.

But this does not discount Fonyo from deserving our respect. The interest alone from his campaign was enough to start the Canadian chapter of the Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation. Tarnished as his reputation might be, Steve Fonyo's face is the face of a cancer survivor and a hero, and it should be celebrated.

# The election's losers

## What do you mean you didn't vote for the POCWHDTTFTABTOP?

**by Graham Stark**

So the Liberals are still in power, which is hardly surprising.

By which I mean, it may not have been certain whether they or the NDP would take it, but it was a sure thing that it would be one of them. Which, considering the odds, is pretty good.

There are 45 registered political parties in B.C., and apart from the big two, none of them had a chance.

Everyone likes to make fun of the Marijuana Party because they're an easy target. But there are far easier marks to throw darts at. Here are some of the best:

**Refederation Party of BC**

Wants B.C. to have its own government, separate from Ottawa. Good luck.

**Bloc Party of BC**

Taking it one step further, the Bloc want us to become an independent country. At least our Bloc Party isn't trying to pass us off as a "distinct society."

**Western Canada Concept Party**

And what a "concept" it is. This party would like to see B.C., Alberta and Saskatchewan leave Canada and form the independent "Nation of Western Canada." If you've ever played RISK, you'll know the area as the section labeled "Alberta."

**Annexation Party of British Columbia**

Apparently this movement was founded in 1869, and its aim is for B.C. to cede to the U.S. and become the official 51st state. Has anyone cleared this with the States yet?

**People of B.C. Millionaires Party**

These folks want to sell the province at a cost of $1 million per person, resulting in a population of millionaires. If they can find anyone to pony up $3,160,570,000,000, it might just work.

**Work Less Party**

Not only do they want to work less, they want the Premier to answer to the people of the province. Literally. One day a week, for eight hours, they expect the Premier to personally answer a 1-800 line.

**The Natural Law Party**

Known colloquially as the "Yogic Flyers," they believe in levitation through meditation. What this has to do with running a province is up in the air.

**The B.C. Libertarian Party**

This party sees government as outmoded, and wants its complete dissolution. Which kind of renders them useless.

**The Communist Party of BC**

The Communists are not the red threat they once were. They don't want to overthrow the bourgeoisie, nor do they plan to set up a series of gulags. They merely want to pull Canada out of NAFTA and sell BC Rail. Those commie bastards!

**The Freedom Party**

It's a wonderful irony that a party promoting "freedom" does not support gay marriage or equal rights for homosexuals, or what they call the "Gay Agenda."

**The Party Of Citizens Who Have Decided To Think For Themselves And Be Their Own Politicians**

While the POCWHDTTFTABTOP wins for the best acronym, a quick trip to their website will show you that their platform is absolutely insane. They believe that the welfare system is the Canadian Gestapo. Furthermore, they are convinced that Paul Martin has personally tortured and murdered Canadian citizens.

**The Sex Party**

Finally, an agenda I think we can all get behind. The Sex Party wants increased sexual education and decreased sexual censorship. They also want parks and beaches of more than a hectare to have designated "nudist areas." Oh yeah, they want to change Victoria Day, a celebration of Queen Victoria, to Eros Day, a celebration of wangs and boobies.

# It's a democracy, but not every vote should count

## If we appoint inept wankers, aren't we partially to blame?

**by Norman Ed Baskerville**

It's sometimes easy to forget that governments are our employees and that we are essentially voting shareholders. If the administrators we appoint are inept wankers, aren't we partially to blame?

We always hear, "get out and vote on election day," but what you almost never hear is, "but if you vote, know your shit and don't screw it up for the rest of us."

As a shareholder, I have a suggestion to ensure that the lazy and uninformed among us are weeded out of the process. I recommend that a short, simple test on party platforms be placed on the ballot. If the electorate doesn't pass the test (we'll make 50 per cent the magic number) their vote does not count and they'll be required to pay a fine, which, ideally, will encourage them to study the next time.

A Fortune 500 company would not allow a board member to be part of a decision if the member was found to be ignorant of the key factors relevant to making a knowledgeable judgment—why do we not expect the same kind of accountability when it comes to who chooses our government?

Honestly now, during an election year, how many times have you researched even the basic platform of each political party? How many times have you delved into each party's past stance and actions, on any topical election subject, and then searched for real inconsistencies in what they claim their present stance to be? I admit that, on occasion, I have cast my vote ignorantly, and I know I'm not alone.

Obviously, some people take their voting responsibilities very seriously, but too many people vote because they think one party leader looks less unscrupulous than another, or simply because they've always voted for a certain party. Friends of mine have even told me they choose to support the party most polar opposite to that of their spouses, just to get a rise out of them.

Now, I know some of you are thinking that if a test is required, our already low voter turnout will only get lower. To nullify that possibility we'll make voting mandatory and nonparticipation subject to a fine, as it is in Australia.

Can you imagine how difficult it'd be for political parties to pile on bullshit promises and successfully use smear tactics if voters were actually informed? And if they did make outrageous promises, like Chretien did when he repeatedly said he'd abolish the GST, we'll hit 'em where it really hurts. If the elected party can't prove to an independent commission that they seriously attempted to keep their election promises, their allotted campaign funding for the next election would be severely reduced.

Well, there it is, my plan for a more effective democracy. It's not really that radical and it's not really necessary—as long as we shareholders do our part and vote rationally. Any knob can cast a vote, but if you want more accountability from your government, remember to first hold yourself accountable.

# Right question, wrong answer

## 'How should we address old age poverty in this country? Not by banning mandatory retirement'

**by Jonathan Chapnick**

In the coming months the Ontario government will propose the wrong solution to old age poverty. Unfortunately, it's likely proponents of a ban on mandatory retirement will pressure the B.C. government to take similar action.

Post-secondary school instructors across the country watched in March as the University of Toronto reached an accord with its faculty association to end mandatory retirement for professors and librarians.

The agreement is a prelude to long-awaited legislation that will ban compulsory retirement in Ontario.

On an individual level, the push by most university teachers for more "flexible" retirement policies makes perfect sense. Many older academics possess both the ability and desire to continue working past 65.

But faculty associations are not the only groups who have actively opposed forced retirement. The Ontario Human Rights Commission and organizations representing older and retired Canadians have also spoken out against the practise, and have advocated strongly in favour of the ban.

For instance, the *Globe and Mail* reported that the Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP) has urged the provincial government to introduce its new legislation "sooner rather than later because so many people are going to fall between the cracks."

CARP argues that 35 per cent of people over 65 live in poverty, and many need to work to pay for food, housing, health care and transportation.

According to the National Council of Welfare's most recent "Poverty Profile," the poverty rate for unattached Canadian seniors was over 42 per cent in 2001.

The financial hardship of older workers tends to be particularly severe for those who earn lower wages, accumulate less income and pension benefits, and experience greater unemployment during their working lives.

However, as the United Steelworkers of America wrote in a submission to the Ontario government last year, to suggest that Canada's old age poverty crisis "should be resolved by eliminating mandatory retirement is to take an unduly restrictive view of the options available, and to settle on the resolution that is most punitive to workers." The best solution to eradicating poverty among the elderly "is to eliminate the systemic factors that give rise to their impoverishment."

In other words, abolishing compulsory retirement will place the burden of fighting old age poverty upon impoverished older workers, by extending their working struggle to make ends meet.

Instead of proposing a ban on mandatory retirement, Ontario should be addressing the financial needs of its older workers through reforms to eliminate wage inequality and labour force access restrictions, and to improve retirement income security.

Evidence shows that, generally, people do not want to work past 65. In 1999, the average retirement age in Canada was 61—down from 63 in 1989—and studies have shown that a very small percentage would prefer to work.

Rather than legislating to extend insecure and underpaid working lives, governments should focus on pay equity initiatives, increasing public pension and old-age benefits, raising wages and employment standards, and adapting workplaces and social assistance to meet the needs and concerns of older workers.

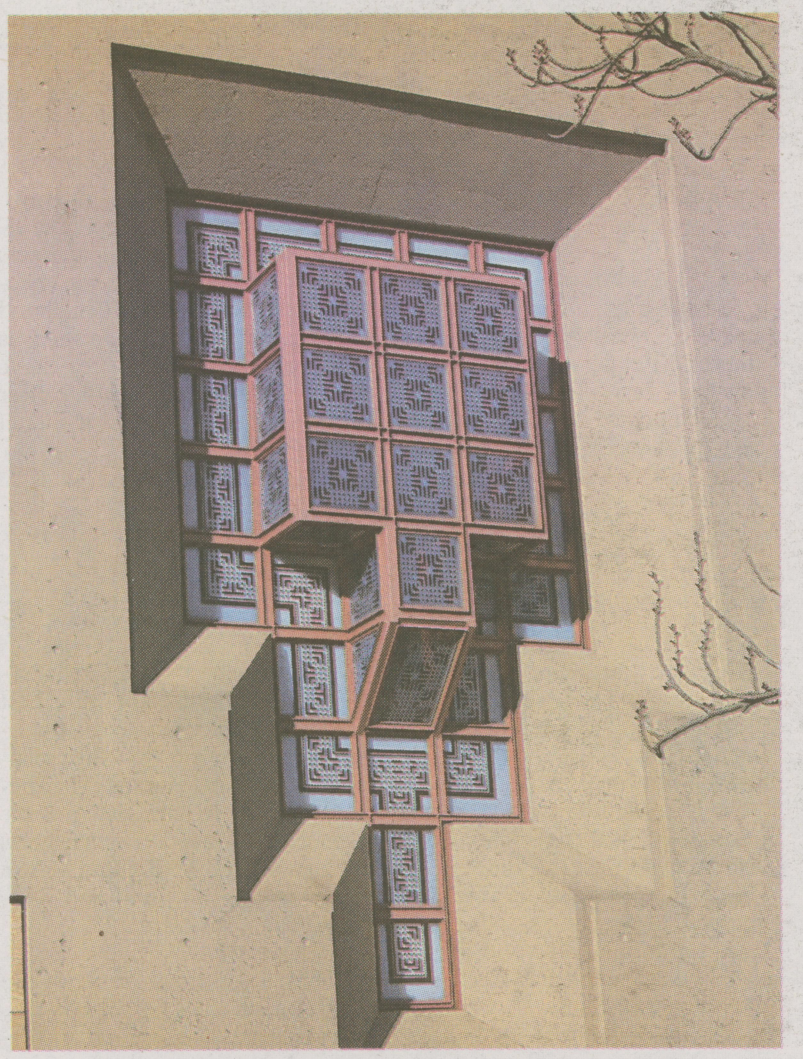
Let's expose such a solution for what it really is: the abdication of the state's responsibility to protect and assist its most vulnerable working people and retirees.

The Martlet
Thursday, May 19, 2005

# Architecture for Canadian Communities:

## The Ismaili *Jamatkhana* of Burnaby, British Columbia

by Angela Andersen



ANGELA ANDERSEN PHOTOS

*British Columbia's religious communities meet everywhere from people's living rooms to school gymnasiums. But when they can build a place of learning, meeting, worship and celebration of their own, they create a symbol of their faith and an image that reaches the wider British Columbia population. Creating architecture of appropriate meaning and quality is thus a great responsibility.*

The Ismaili Muslim *Jamatkhana* ("meeting house") of Burnaby, B.C. strives for the challenging aim of providing for all the many needs of a busy social and spiritual community. They have created a solid presence without overwhelming their suburban neighbours by using all the skills architects and engineers have to offer. The Burnaby *Jamatkhana* is a building with contemporary features and a lasting aesthetic, tested and proven in the 20 years since its completion in 1985.

Construction of the Burnaby *Jamatkhana* project began in 1982, under the supervision of architect Bruno Freschi. Freschi, who also designed the giant silver Expo Dome for the 1986 World's Exposition in Vancouver, now Science World, needed to learn the language of Islamic architecture in order to adapt it to the needs of his Ismaili clients in their Canadian setting.

There are approximately 12,500 Ismaili Muslims in British Columbia today. Many are part of families that immigrated to Canada in 1972, resettling here after expulsion from East Africa under the Edi Amin regime. Historically, Ismailis lived in Iran, Central Asia, Egypt and the Indian sub-continent. During the latter part of the nineteenth and the early years of the twentieth century, many Ismailis migrated from India to East Africa, establishing communities in Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya. When Amin forced yet another mass migration, many Ismailis came to Canada.

The Aga Khan, the world leader of the Ismaili community, was instrumental in helping Ismailis find new homes in a time of upheaval, and encouraged them to embrace a new life for themselves and for their families in B.C.'s lower mainland and on Vancouver Island. A decade after their movement to Canada, the next step was to build the Burnaby *Jamatkhana*.

The *Jamatkhana*'s design is an architectural expression of Ismaili traditions and principles. All Muslims believe that the Prophet Muhammad was the final in a long line of prophets that includes Moses and Jesus, and that the *Qur'an*, the holy book of Islam, was delivered to Muhammad during his meditations in the hills of Arabia in the seventh century.

After the death of Muhammad, there was debate over who should be appointed his successor as the political and spiritual leader of the Islamic community. The branch of Islam known as Sunnism began under the leadership of the Caliphs, who were companions of the Prophet and followers of his teachings. Shi'i Muslims chose, instead, to follow the Prophet's relatives, including his cousin Ali, who married Muhammad's daughter Fatima. Spiritual and intellectual leaders in the Shi'i tradition, called *Imams*, passed down their leadership in succession. Eventually further branches developed and the Ismailis split from other Shi'is. Ismailis trace the Aga Khan's role of intellectual and religious guidance back to the *Imams* of the seventh century and to the line of the Prophet's cousin Ali himself.

This sense of history and what many Ismailis describe as a "faith of intellect" emerges at first contact with the design of the *Jamatkhana*. The entrance to the building is formed by two large wooden doors, with handles that are emblazoned with the important name of Ali in stylized Arabic calligraphy. The doors themselves are inset with polished calligraphy in brass that writes out the *Shahada*, the profession of faith for Muslims, stating: "None has the right to be worshipped but Allah and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah." These reminders in wood and metal of Islamic belief and Ismaili heritage are built into every feature of the architecture, essentially making the entire building into a profession of faith.

The attention to details is built upon in layers until the entire building and its site are linked together. Instead of creating rooms joined by hallways, destined to become crowded during busy times and empty space at others, the form of the octagon is repeated and connected, like the honeycombs of bees. Octagonal areas open up onto each other and are grouped together in the larger spaces of the building.

In geometric terms, the octagon is a squared circle, containing numerical messages of balance encompassed in an unbroken line. In the tradition of Islamic learning, numbers and geometric shapes have become a way not merely to engineer architecture and monuments, but to embody some of the sublime and esoteric concepts of religious philosophy that cannot effectively be put into pictures, poetry or prose.

One of the most recognizable features of Muslim places of prayer is the minaret, a tower from which a call known as the *azaan* is made by a person called a *muezzin* to remind the community of the five daily prayer times. The minaret is strikingly absent from the Burnaby *Jamatkhana*'s design. During construction, great efforts were made to minimize anything that might be considered a disruption to the suburban surroundings. In addition, Ismailis living in the Lower Mainland know when prayer times are and, due to jobs and studies, are generally unable to attend five times daily. The minaret and call to prayer were as a result not required in their traditional form; however, the symbolic significance of the *azaan* and the minaret is incorporated into the architecture of the *Jamatkhana*. Rather than creating a solid tower on the exterior of the building, Freschi has poised four aligned concrete octagons around a well of open space that reaches from the ground floor to the height of the roof. This is the location of a spiraling staircase. When climbing the stairs (that would be used by the *muezzin* if it were a formal minaret) the body travels in consecutive octagonal spirals, emerging in the social heart of the *Jamatkhana*.

Because the *Jamatkhana* was intended as a community centre, the architecture was carefully created to provide spaces for celebration as well as prayer and meditation. A social hall for weddings and other gatherings is perched on the second storey above the centre's main entrance. The ceiling structure again embraces the geometry of the octagon in bowls of smooth, cool

concrete illuminated by highly polished, brass, ring-shaped lighting fixtures suspended by invisible wires. The walls are hung with carpets, kilims and other textiles from the Aga Khan's collection. Wooden partitions that may be repositioned to divide the large room are crafted in the tradition of *mashrabiya*, screens used to soften strong sunlight and the gazes of nosy neighbours in Islamic architecture. The arts of writing and woodworking merge into versatile architectural components that have remembrance of Allah built into their structure.

The very walls of the building course with the words Allah, Muhammad and Ali. Calligraphy plays a major role in the experience of the Burnaby *Jamatkhana*. In addition to the Arabic words and phrases on the main doors and the screens of the social hall, pieces of important text are punched onto rosettes and abstracted into long shapes that hug sharp angles and course along long stretches. Every beam of light that shines through the windows casts the shadow of the sacred words etched onto the panes of glass.

The use of calligraphic lines and the flexibility to create architectural motifs from Arabic letters reaches a powerful climax in the prayer hall. Divided from the entrance area of the centre by a low, wide screen, the massive proportions of the hall are only understood once the physical preparations of stepping through the garden, through the main doors, taking off one's shoes and travelling around the ends of the screen have been accomplished.

The prayer hall is the culmination of the self-knowledge of the Ismaili people, at both the local and the global levels, and the creative interpretations of architect Freschi. The *qibla*, the wall of the building that indicates the direction of prayer towards Mecca, rises at the far end of a wide, open area. The overall approach at the *Jamatkhana* of expanding and refining layers of words and shapes through repetition gives strength to the waves of red and white marble plaques, floated like ivory pendants along the *qibla* wall. They spell out the name of Allah.

The proportions of the hall are so comfortable that at first there is no desire to question what might be holding up the ceiling: the massive, trunk-like concrete columns of the entrance and social halls are not used in the prayer hall's design. No view is blocked by architectural supports holding up the ceiling's eight half domes and 13 full domes, each weighing 25,400 kilograms. If you happen to be sitting beneath one of those massive octagonal domes at the time this question arises, it is a disturbing thought. It is the walls that take on this lofty structural task. The three exterior walls are one metre thick, enough to raise the honeycomb-shaped organic grid above.

Think of how many schools, gas stations and office blacks are made of concrete and it is difficult to imagine how that same nondescript, grey material could be used to create religious architecture intended to inspire contemplation on the holy and the sacred. On the *Jamatkhana*'s exterior, thinly cut sheets of warm, textured sandstone cover much of the façade. On the interior, the concrete stands exposed so that it becomes clear how the suppleness of concrete in its liquid state was used to shape the space. In this way, architectural achievements in brick and stone throughout Islamic built history are translated into common cement, pushed to its full potential.

In addition to skylights sliced into the fabric of the domes, window niches focus and direct daylight to illuminate the prayer hall. Although these windows shine like lanterns when the prayer hall is lit from within on dark evenings, the setting sun pours into the western window niches during the late afternoon, charging the air with translated beams of light.

The Burnaby *Jamatkhana* is tucked into its site, set below grade to create a subtle profile. Below ground level, classrooms and administrative areas cleverly bring the lofty halls above to a smaller scale and a new purpose.

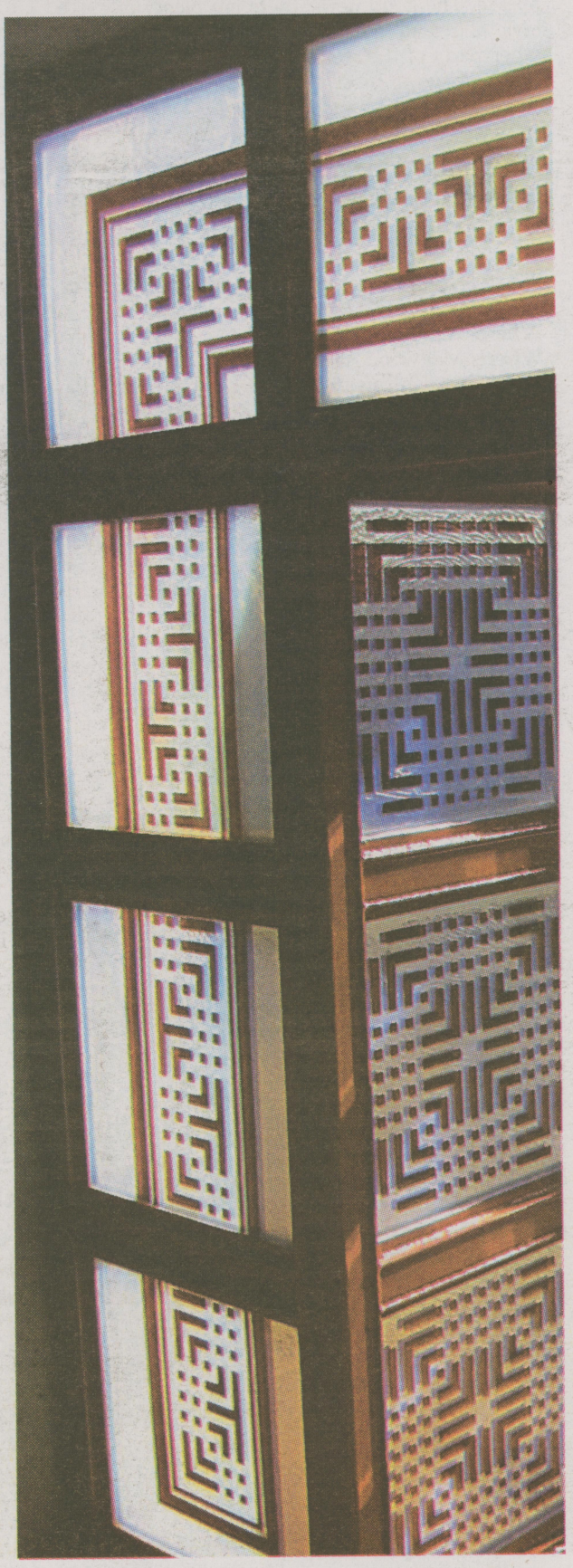
What is perhaps most striking about the Burnaby *Jamatkhana* is Freschi's success at creating a practical, working space for the Ismaili community in all areas of the centre, while giving a heightened sense of pacific significance to the prayer hall. Essentially the same motifs, materials and architectural vocabulary were used throughout. Simply put, the social space, the gardens, the parking lot and the stunning prayer hall use the same basic building blocks and materials. It is the intellectual and philosophical approach to using those ingredients that achieves what is surely to be included in a long line of meaningful and well-used works of Islamic educational and religious community architecture.

In the daily lives of Ismailis living on Vancouver Island, there is an awareness of the presence of the Burnaby *Jamatkhana*, what Victoria resident Hussein Keshani describes as a "peripheral role." Hanifa Keshani notes attendance for social events, in particular visits to the *Jamatkhana* for weddings, and Hussein has often attended prayers there. Hussein, who is trained as an architect and holds a PhD in architectural history, encountered the building for the first time as a teenager visiting from Alberta with his family. That first visit had "quite a long lasting resonance—it made quite an impression on me."

It is no coincidence that this exquisitely designed centre was the first one purpose-built for Ismailis in Canada. The Aga Khan is a supporter of architectural archives, commissions, restorations and awards programs around the world. This belief in the need for a high standard in architecture is part of a wider concern for community, both Muslim and non-Muslim. Ismailis see themselves as responsible for ensuring the health, education and basic needs of other Ismailis while simultaneously looking after those in need around them. One of the initiatives of the Aga Khan is the World Partnership Walk, now in its 21st year as an annual event in Canadian cities. Funds raised go to the developing world to help provide for the costs of education, health care and rural development projects.

The Victoria leg of the World Partnership Walk departs from the Cameron Bandshell in Beacon Hill Park at 11 a.m. on Sunday, May 29. Everyone is welcome to participate and contribute.

*For more information, visit www.worldpartnershipwalk.com*



# Keep out of direct sunlight: Your summer with mainstream cinema

by Sacha Narine

Shrieking bats of winter hide from majestic butterflies and salty, salty seagulls. Children roller-skate on side-streets, licking ice cream in the shade beneath tall poplars. Boys and girls the world over hurt themselves trying to look like the cast of *The OC*.

That's right . . . summer's finally here. But save yourself the skin cancer and keep indoors, preferably in a nice air-conditioned movie theatre where you can kick back and enjoy the summer's most promising, and strangest, cinematic sunshine.

### Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith (May 19)

Here it is: Lucas's last chance to redeem the prequel trilogy with something (anything!) other than mediocrity. Sure, Darth Maul was scary and pulled some pretty neat cartwheels, but it's hard to ignore the ubiquitous and toweringly stupid Jar-Jar Binks, the piss-poor casting of Hayden Christensen as Darth "Ani" Vader, and Yoda's god-awful computer-generated sabre battle with a 90-year-old invalid concluding *Episode II*. This one better be good, George, or I'm totally not buying those lightsabre chopsticks off eBay.

### Mindhunters (May 27)

Renny Harlin's latest masterwork could wind up being the summer's most unintentionally funny movie, or its most excruciating. Harlin, a veteran hack director, is responsible for the schlock-thriller masterwork *Deep Blue Sea*, about super-intelligent sharks that eat altruistic science nerds. Most interesting, though, is the fact that *Mindhunters*, a serial-killer thriller, was finished in early 2003 but is only now receiving a North American release. The good news: there are plenty of reviews to read since the film has been out in other parts of the world as of March 2004. The bad news: most of the reviews say it sucks.

### Cinderella Man (June 3)

Unlike Kevin Spacey, who fell on hard, hard times after his Oscar win for *American Beauty*, Oscar-winner Russell Crowe kept his standards high with quality work in *A Beautiful Mind* and *Master and Commander*. In *Cinderella Man*, Crowe plays Jim Braddock, a Depression-era boxer who takes a crotch-shot from Black Tuesday and struggles to be a contender, to be somebody. In a perfect world, *Cinderella Man* would have all the rousing American bravado of *Rocky* with all the humorous commie-bashing of *Rocky 4*. Fingers crossed!

### Mr. and Mrs. Smith (June 10)

Yay, boners for all! I can't wait to see Angelina Jolie jiggle and shake in hyper-slutty assassin gear, and my man-hungry pals should enjoy the chiselled Brad Pitt action, but beyond the abs and titties, *Mr. and Mrs. Smith* looks like uber-trash, a revamped *Ballistic: Ecks vs. Sever* for people afraid of "them coloured folk." Bonus points to you, the reader, for knowing what *Ballistic* is. Subtract points if you've actually seen it.

### Batman Begins (June 17)

This might be the summer's one sure thing. With *Memento* director Christopher Nolan behind the camera and the American Psycho himself, Christian Bale, donning the occasionally nipply bat-suit, *Batman Begins* could rejuvenate the Dark Knight franchise and continue the renaissance of quality superhero movies alongside *The Crow*, *Spider-Man 2* and *Sin City*. Look for Liam Neeson, Gary Oldman, Morgan Freeman and Cillian Murphy (Jim from *28 Days Later*) in vital supporting roles.

### War of the Worlds (June 29)

Steven Spielberg makes high-quality junk. *Saving Private Ryan* is a stupid movie, but a pleasant one to watch. *Minority Report* plays

PROVIDED PHOTO

a weak second-fiddle to *Blade Runner*, but it's still pretty good. Expect *War of the Worlds*, the Tom Cruise-starring mega-epic based on H.G. Wells' novel, to have the same vacuous wow factor and disquieting airiness. Pure popcorn entertainment, best to be seen on the big screen or not at all.

### Fantastic Four (July 8)

When a movie's shining star is Jessica Alba of *Dark Angel* infamy, there's not much special effects can do, other than make her look even hotter. *Fantastic Four* is a low-budget cash-in superhero movie, in league with *Blade: Trinity*, *The Punisher* and *Elektra*. See *Batman Begins* twice and leave this one to languish in matinee-land.

### Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (July 15)

Now, we all love Johnny Depp, that rebellious, hard-living 'tang magnet, but another adaptation of Roald Dahl's classic story was clearly uncalled for. The first one, starring Gene Wilder, is a quality film, and I urge you to rent it and bask in its delightful silliness. This new one might be worth a look, but ten years down the road it'll still be unnecessary, like wearing a band-aid over a diamond ring.

### The Island (July 22)

In less than a decade, *The Island* director Michael Bay has helmed a triumvirate of crapulence: *Armageddon* (1998), *Pearl Harbor* (2001), and *Bad Boys 2* (2003). Luckily, he also directed the good-but-not-great *The Rock* in 1996, and *The Island* stars the cuddly and capable Ewan McGregor and Scarlett Johansson. Those are good signs, but Bay may still be the anti-Christ. Knock on wood and it won't suck *too* much.

August, as it seems, will be a lousy month for movies. So maybe that's your chance to show off your newly-acquired *OC*-body on one of Victoria's fine sewage-laden beaches. Have a great summer, and if it lands in my yard, I'm keepin' it!

# Photography exhibit showcases hidden past

**What:** *Shashin: Japanese Canadian Studio Photography to 1942*
**When:** Until June 17, 2005
**Where:** Maltwood Art Gallery and Museum @ University Centre
**How much:** Free

by Deena Kinarthy

As Japanese artist Shiba Kokan (1747-1818) said, "One realistically drawn picture is worth 10,000 words..."

I carefully scan the dozens of striking black and white photographs of Japanese-Canadian First World War soldiers, brides in lily-white gowns, Japanese farm workers, and all-Japanese baseball teams, funerals, and school groups.

These are photographs of a people with a rich heritage and culture, yet their eyes tell stories of hardship and struggle.

In Canada we like to think of ourselves as leaders in the world for our progressive multi-culturalism. Our national identity has relied on the notion that we are one of the fairest societies in the world. However, Canada has a dark history of racism and segregation.

"Since the 1980s, the story of the Japanese-Canadians has become quite well-known and appears in most Canadian history textbooks," said UVic history professor Dr. Patricia Roy.

However, Roy notes, "Many textbooks and the press seem to draw on a small collection of photographs when they need something to illustrate the Japanese-Canadian experience. The photographs in this exhibit are new and fresh and illustrate the lives of Japanese Canadians in happier times."

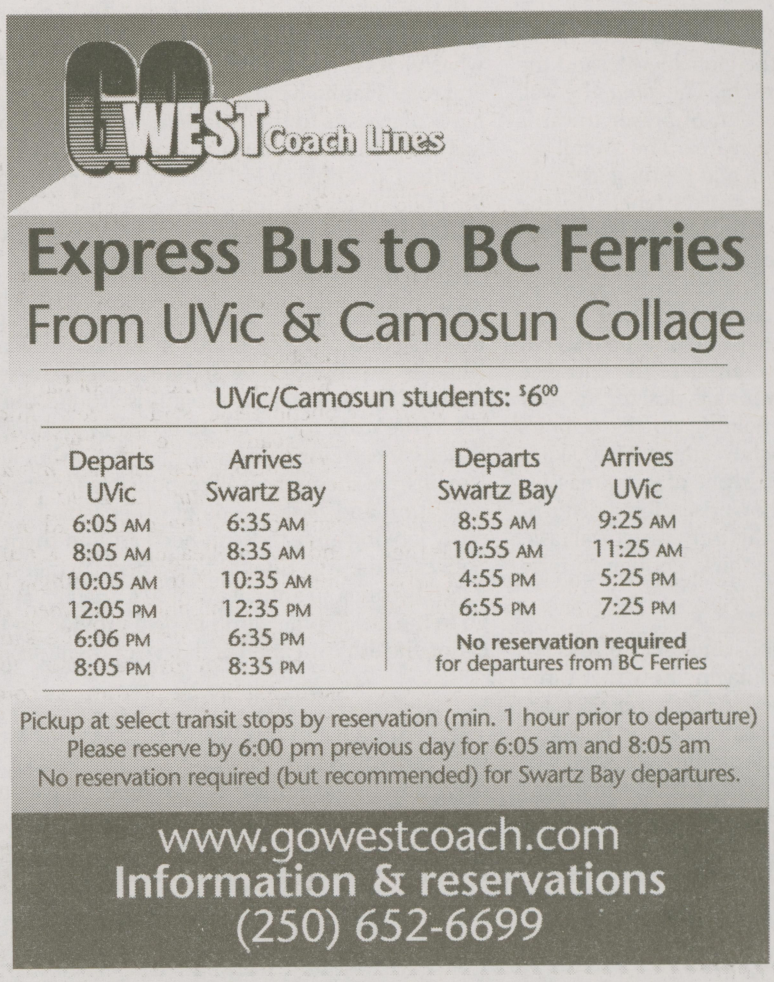
A collection of 80 black and white photographs from 1900–1942 will be on display at the Maltwood Art Gallery and Museum until June 17. Funded by the Community-University Research Alliance program, this never-before-seen collection of photography captures a history of both elite and working class Japanese-Canadian societies living on the Pacific Coast of B.C.

Through the efforts of a group of UVic professors, co-op students and graduate students, and with the Japanese Canadian National Museum, the photographs will be shown throughout Canada.

Many researchers agree that this exhibit is historically important. "It gives us a glimpse of a visual past that was lost," said Dr. Phyllis Senese, a professor in UVic's history department. "In this sense the photographs are historical documents."

But, as she points out, the photos are also art. "The photographs that were selected also illustrate the artistic qualities that went into creating a formal portrait. So the photographs are both historical documents and works of art in many cases."

Whether you enjoy the photographs for their creative merit and artistic style or enjoy them as a record of Japanese-Canadian heritage, this exhibit is worth a visit.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Arrives UVic: 9:25 AM, 11:25 AM, 5:25 PM, 7:25 PM
No reservation required for departures from BC Ferries
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Please reserve by 6:00 pm previous day for 6:05 am and 8:05 am
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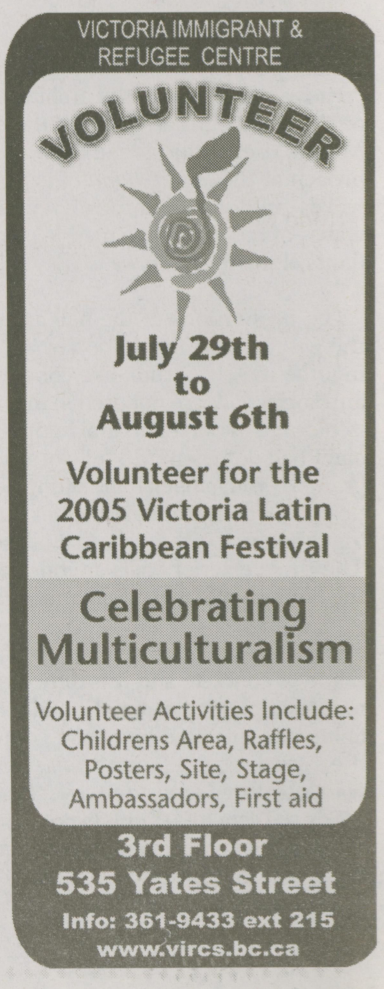
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# Big art from *Book of Small*

## Ordinary objects make for extrordinary art

**What:** *Book of Small*
**When:** Until June 4
**Where:** Open Space Gallery, 510 Fort St.
**How much:** By donation

**by Karen Joy Staats**

*Book of Small*, Open Space's current show, delivers what it promises: a book. It also offers the works of artists Sonja Ahlers, Ginger Brooks Takahashi and Sarah Cain.

While each woman's works seem unrelated, they are blended together in both the physical space and in a book, aptly titled *Book of Small*, named for a book written by Emily Carr. The *Book of Small* featured in the show is a must-read for anyone stopping by the gallery, as it allows the authors to speak for themselves. Installations and art can be intimidating, and the book grounds the viewers in their own interpretations.

Each artist is responsible for a wall in the gallery and a lot of time can be spent in front of Sonja Ahlers' installation.

At first glance it is soft, pink and pretty. The time must be taken, however, to dwell upon each seemingly randomly placed or thrown item: ballet shoes, chocolate boxes, and cookies. Some things are hung with quaint knitting needles while others are stuck to the wall with masking tape as though they were an afterthought.

No item, however, is given more value than another. Ahlers invites the viewer to interpret the piece subjectively and, in doing so, allows each person's associations of the objects to be accepted and even validated.

Sarah Cain's minimal, abstract, poetic installation reveals that there is no space that is not intended for art. Art can be found anywhere. Ginger Brooks Takahashi's mixed media work breaks the mold of the tortured, lonely artist by embracing the broad spirit of collaboration. Takahashi's strong sense of community is evident in the way that her pieces often speak directly to the viewer with messages like "an army of lovers cannot fall."

Each work makes the viewers question themselves and why they are interpreting the work in a certain way. Returning to the *Book of Small* for an answer only makes the viewers realize that only they can decide what is important to them.

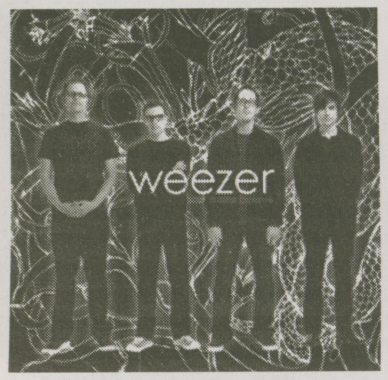
If you check out this exhibit, be warned. In Open Space, among the seemingly ordinary objects that make up the exhibit, you may get lost in time.

But when you leave you'll still be meditating upon Takahashi's tremendous string installation, haunted by Ahlers' choices and confident that art can be found anywhere.

AARON MCMILLAN PHOTO

**Sonja Ahlers makes art out of her love for the band Heart.**

CD REVIEW | WEEZER




Weezer
*Make Believe*
Universal

**by Jeremy Petter**

Like previous Weezer releases, *Make Believe* is a pop album hung on a skeleton of heavy distortion, hair-metal solos and power chords. While generally more subdued than the mosh-friendly *Green* and *Maladroit* albums, *Make Believe* sports more musical diversity than either of those releases.

From the synthy, Cure-inspired "This is Such a Pity" to the layered, Jimmy Eat World-esque "We Are All On Drugs," Weezer's fifth LP smacks of heavy production and technical innovation, both of which keep their sound fresh in a sea of raw indy bands and stale pop-emo knockoffs.

Certainly, this is not what *Pinkerton*-loving, hardcore Weezer fans are looking for, but it's good for casual fans and lovers of catchy pop.

Granted, there is little here that is lyrically profound or deep—some songs ("My Best Friend") are downright cheesy. Is this because Rivers has grown up since the '90s, found a new sense of peace in meditation, and no longer feels the need to whine catchy, clever rhymes about nothing? Or, is it, as some of his most loyal fans have asserted, because he has become an old, tired hack, whose selling-out has made him unable to replicate the drive of his previous work?

The answer is irrelevant. The point is *Make Believe* is far from being *Pinkerton, Part II*. Although the songs are not life-changing, they are fun, catchy, and have enough variety to endure multiple playthroughs . . . which is ultimately is what pop's all about, right?

CD REVIEW | GARBAGE

Garbage
*Bleed Like Me*
Geffen Records

**by Angela Andersen**

In the immortal words of Oscar the Grouch, "Trash. I love it." Translated into standard Canadian English usage, that would be "Garbage. I love it."

*Bleed Like Me* pours out the ironically catchy psychological wrestlings of people disturbed by their own conscience—Garbage's musical specialty.

Slogan-worthy achings of the human heart are set to tunes straining at the gates with barely controlled guitar rage. (I am coining a phrase: *guitar rage*: the musical communication of the emotions of anger and frustration as conveyed by loud and rapid playing of the electric guitar with frequent shifts into minor keys and sliding chord changes.)

The purge of blood itself is in the title track "Bleed Like Me" as characters numb themselves by self-inflicting physical harm, while the speaker literally chokes on her frustrations ("I'm standing in the shadows/ With the words stuck in my throat") in the single "Why Do You Love Me?" Bitter bile builds and seethes in other tracks, like "Why Don't You Come Over," where Shirley Manson sings, "[I was] sacrificing something/ While you counted all my flaws."

Garbage rarely merges pop and rock into a single sound, instead layering and contrasting these influences. Verses are fluid and embellished with electronica, followed by a chorus that throws the crunchy guitars into their rock guise. This works in tandem with the lyrics, which cast Manson as stifled and wounded until she breaks free into full, defiant, black eye-linered Garbage-ness.

# Finding unity in diversity

**What:** *Bella Canto*
**When:** June 8, 2005, 8 p.m.
**Where:** McPherson Theatre
**How much:** $20, $15 for students

**by Bryna Hallam**

*Bella Canto* is breaking the rules of performance, and that's just fine by Todd Khozein.

Khozein is a driving force behind *Bella Canto*, a concert tour that seeks to blend music from a number of different backgrounds in the name of promoting the oneness of humanity.

"We're taking diversity and showing how it can be used," he said. "You can have unity in diversity."

*Bella Canto* marries musical instruments, genres and artists from around the world, with surprisingly cohesive results. "The erhu [Chinese violin] was never made to be played next to an Africa drum," said Khozein. But it works.

*Bella Canto* follows up on the success of last year's *Embrace the World Tour*, which featured Persian violinist Farzad, Chinese vocalist and erhu virtuoso Lin Cheng, and Leonor Dely, one of the top female vocalists in South America.

This year features an equally varied lineup. Farzad is once again playing, and joining him are "flamenco rock" group MimosA and flamenco dancer Monique "La Fiera."

The concert features seven men in all—including, Khozein points out, a Buddhist percussionist, a Native bass player, and a Baptist drummer—and one woman: the dancer, who according to Khozein represents the singularity of human kind.

Adding to that theme is the fact that no single artist represents or "headlines" the show. Performers will step on and off the stage as they are needed. The composing artist will lead each piece—as a result the band has no single leader.

"There is really no hierarchy," said Khozein. "It is a true collaboration between the artists." The performers all play collectively, weaving their different styles together.

The goal is to project an atmosphere of humility, and to put the emphasis on the message of the tour, rather than on any single performer.

Every concert is also a partnership with local non-profit organizations. In Victoria, two organizations, Partners for Prosperity and the Victoria International Development Education Association (VIDEA), will share half of the proceeds from the show.

Response to the concept has been "phenomenal," said Khozein. "Audiences can't believe that it works."

The inspiration for the *Embrace the World Tour* and *Bella Canto* came out of the conflict Khozein and his colleagues saw around them. "We felt there is nothing inherently contentious between diverse groups," he said. The same can be said of diverse music. "Just like humanity, all instruments come from the same root."

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# Nash runs and guns his way to MVP

by Aaron Williams

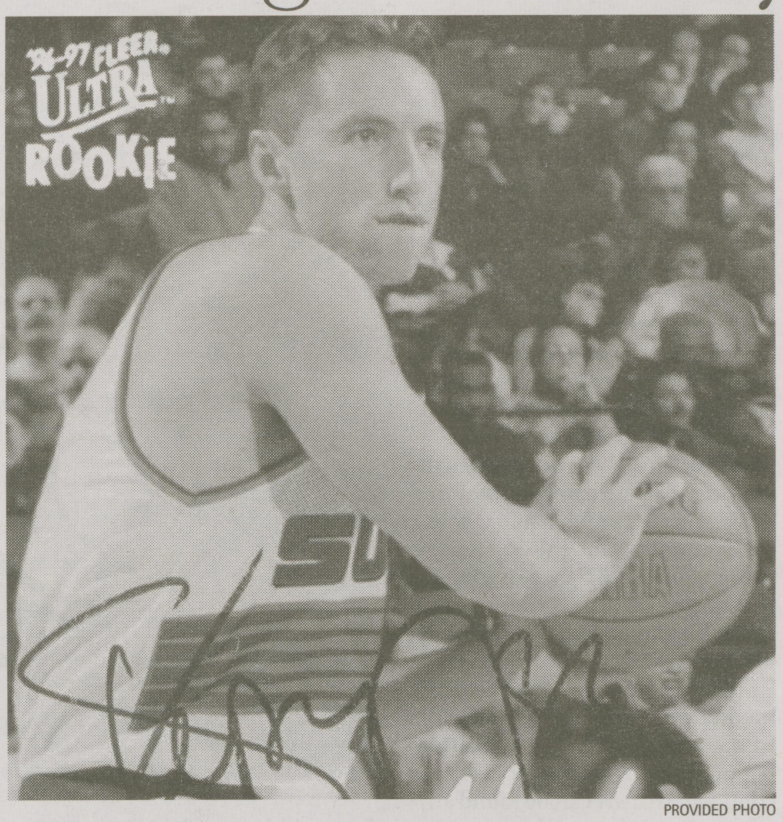
Driving in and out of defenses, firing passes left and right, spinning instinctively, and faithfully leaping into the air, Steve Nash is basketball's answer to the Whirling Dervish.

And the metaphor is not only physical in nature. Just as Dervishes spin to transfer love from the heavens to the earth, Nash channels boundless energy into scoring opportunities for teammates and excitement for fans.

Nash's high-octane attack led the Phoenix Suns to the NBA's most productive offense (110.4 points per game) and the best regular season record (62-20).

Along the way, his team-oriented play contributed 11.5 assists per game, and last week earned him the league's Most Valuable Player title. Although the numbers speak for themselves, bestowing the NBA's highest individual award upon an unassuming Canadian was a big surprise, and was not without controversy.

Everything began to fall into place last summer, when a five-year $65 million contract offer from Phoenix went unmatched by Nash's previous employer, the Dallas Mavericks, owned by billionaire Mark Cuban. Although the contract seemed exorbitant at the time, it began paying dividends right away, as Phoenix won 30 games before Christmas, eclipsing its total from the entire previous season.




PROVIDED PHOTO

**Good thing MVP voting doesn't take hairstyles into consideration.**

By midseason, the Suns were on pace to win 72 games, and match the best regular season record in history. Journalists even began suggesting, quietly at first, that Nash could be a legitimate MVP candidate.

Steve Nash for MVP? The six-foot-two waterbug hailing from St. Michaels University School in Victoria, British Columbia? The player who had exactly one American college scholarship offer? The Steve Nash who lasted until the 15th pick in the 1996 draft?

While talk of an MVP award seemed incredible, especially to the naturally self-effacing Steve, it only intensified in late January when six consecutive Phoenix losses coincided with an injury to their spark-plug of a point guard. By season's end, Nash had garnered enough support to edge Miami Heat center, and perennial MVP favourite Shaquille "Big Diesel" O'Neal, in the official vote of North American journalists and broadcasters.

Due to the surprising result, and the narrow margin of victory, questions were raised about the legitimacy of the selection. In the United States it seems almost everything has to do with race, or is made to be about race, and this award was certainly no exception.

Initiated by an article from the *Miami Herald*, American newswires began to fill with questions such as who the MVP would have been if O'Neal was white, and Nash was black.

While this unavoidable debate continued, a more interesting question was left wide open. Did Nash win the MVP because of his political views?

Not so long ago, when the American media had been cowed into following the warpath into Iraq, Nash arrived at the 2003 All-Star Game wearing a T-shirt that read "No War—Shoot for Peace". He backed up his views by stating, "It's really unfortunate in the year 2003 that we're still using violence as a means of conflict resolution," and, "this is more about oil than it is about nuclear weapons."

Nash refused to yield even as his then-boss, Mark Cuban, Dallas Mavericks owner, rebutted with a "United We Stand" T-shirt.

To Democratic sportswriters, surrounded by big money corporations and turncoat Republican athletes, Nash's actions must have been a breath of fresh air. Especially coming from Texas.

Regardless of commentary and analysis, true vindication for controversial regular season awards can only be earned during the playoffs.

To the Most Victorian Player: spin your magic!

# Journey gives hope for cancer cure

by Bryna Hallam

Take five people with a vision of a cure for cancer. Add a 500-kilometre trek from Port Hardy to Victoria, and you've got the Journey of Hope walk for cancer.

Founded in 2004 by University of Victoria Vikes basketball player Melissa Edwards, last year's walk raised $22,000 for the B.C. Cancer Agency's Trev and Joyce Deeley Research Centre in Victoria.

This year, the group hopes to raise even more.

"We want to raise over $25,000 this year," said Jennifer Diana, Vikes basketball standout and one of the forces behind this year's event.

Edwards' motivation behind the Journey of Hope was a desire to raise awareness of cancer and how to prevent it. Edwards' friend and godmother, Cecily Quin, passed away in December 2003 after a short fight with pancreatic cancer.

Quin's memory, along with Edwards' belief that she can help beat cancer in her lifetime, is what moved her to create Journey of Hope.

Other members of the group have also lost friends and family to cancer. While playing basketball for the Vikes, Diana's coach Kathy Shields was diagnosed with breast cancer. "A big reason I'm doing this is Kathy," said Diana, who also participated in last year's walk.

According to a 2004 National Cancer Institute of Canada report, one in three people will get cancer. They estimate 149,000 new cases of cancer and 69,500 deaths from cancer will occur in Canada in 2005.

There are some choices related to lifestyle that can impact your chances of getting cancer. By visiting schools along the way, the five team members hope to convey a message of fitness and healthy choices.

The group leaves from Port Hardy May 20 and plans to walk 50 kilometres each day, hitting Port Hardy, Port McNeil, Sayward, Campbell River, Courtney, Qualicum Beach, Nanaimo, Ladysmith, Duncan, Mill Bay, and Victoria along the way.

They will return to Victoria May 29 and encourage everyone to join them at UVic's Centennial Stadium at 2 p.m. for the last leg.

BRYNA HALLAM PHOTO

**Celia Pinette (left) and Jen Diana are part of a group walking from Port Hardy to Victoria to raise money for cancer research.**

Diana points out that an event like this is hard to train for, but that all of the participants are active in sports, something they think will help. She also admits that after last year's walk, everyone took a couple weeks off to recover.

Still, she's excited to do it again. "It was an amazing experience," she said. "That's why we want to do it again."

## REDUCING YOUR RISK OF CANCER

Risk can be increased or decreased by the lifestyle choices you make or the kind of environment you live and work in. But even a person at low risk may get cancer, just as a person at high risk may not.

There are some risk factors related to everyday choices that you can change. You can choose to:

- Be a non-smoker and avoid secondhand tobacco smoke.
- Eat a healthy diet.
- Be physically active every day.
- Stay at a healthy weight.
- Limit alcohol use.
- Reduce your exposure to UV (ultraviolet) rays from the sun or tanning beds.
- Know your body and report any changes to your doctor or dentist.
- Follow health and safety instructions when using hazardous materials at home and at work.

*—Tips from the Canadian Cancer Society*

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Gamers Wanted!
Recruit gamers for Video Game Centre, Earn $75.00 minimum for every 10 gamers referred plus bonus. Includes 8 hrs free play monthly. Call The Game Academy 477-5211.

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The BC Cancer Agency is looking for volunteers who are able to contribute 100 hours over the summer months. Volunteers who are interested in making a contribution in a rewarding environment, can e-mail jhurtig@bccancer.bc.ca or call 519-5500 ext 3747 for more information. Volunteer positions are available in the TLC Cafe, Pebbles Gift Shop and in patient support areas.

Volunteers of all ages are needed to assist individuals with disabilities to get out and be active this summer! By donating only 1-2 hours a week you have the opprotunity to participate in an activity you enjoy while giving back to your community. To get involved or for more information, please call Bryanna at 477-6314 or go to www.rivonlineorg/RIVSite.htm

## ON CAMPUS

**SUNAGO—** A gathering, every Tuesday night starting June 7, 7:30 at Vertigo, throughout the summer exploring life, service community, beauty and meaning by serving the university, serving the world. Info: Dave, 478-7113.

**Take the "ONE-TONNE CHALLANGE"** and do your part to reduce greenhouse gas emissions! www.co2zilla.ca or www.www.climatechange.gc.ca
For more info on how you can reduce greenhouse gasses affecting climate change, contact the University of Victoria Sustainability Project at 721-7355 or uvsp@uvic.ca

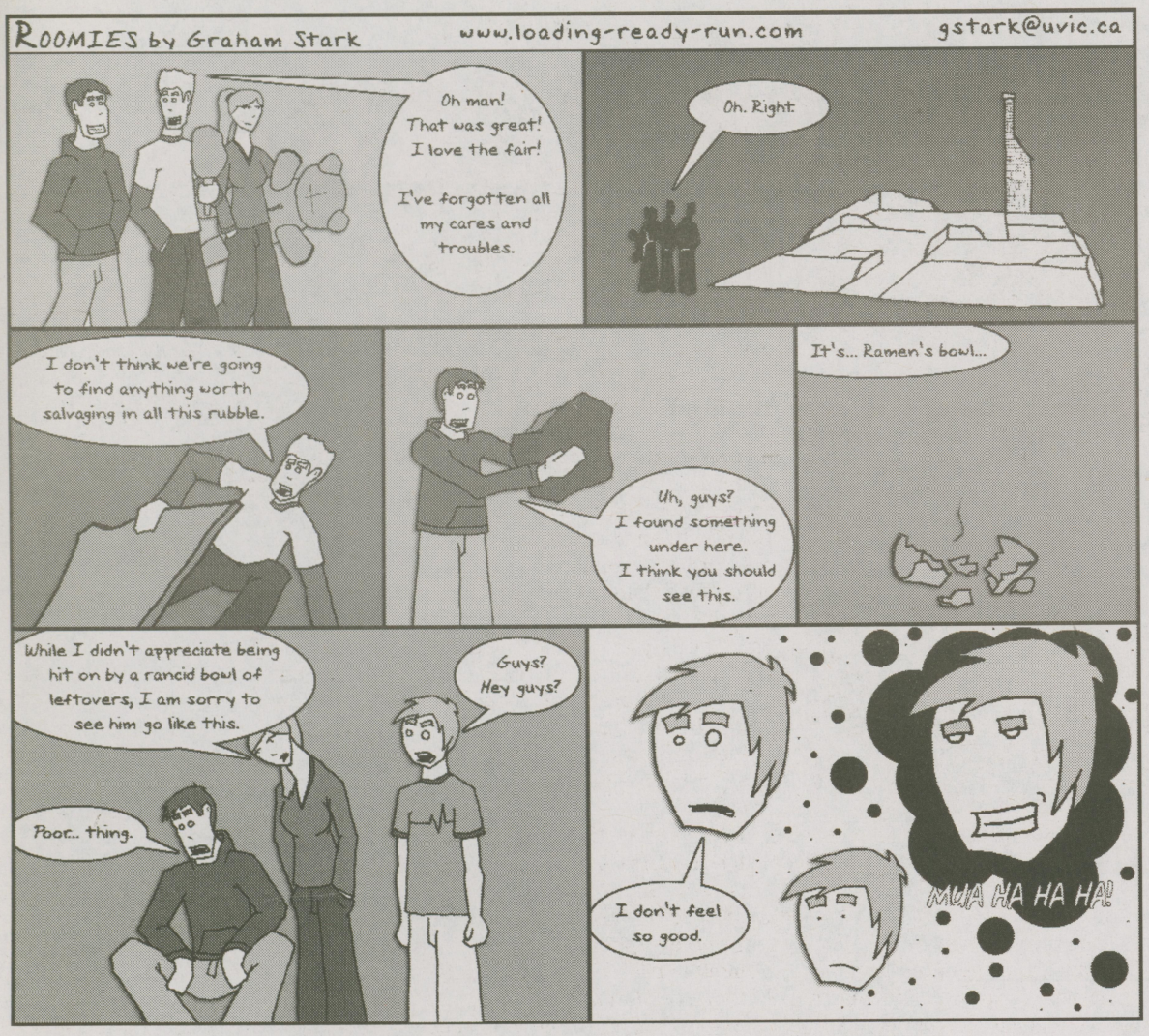
## FOR SALE

**Like new VCR $30 obo. 920-7176.**

## HEY YOU!

Yo, yo, yo...too all the AIESECers who have to stay in VIC this summer! Dont be sad, rock the house, throw more parties and enjoy life! I miss you & CS & the bunnies & Chicken wings ;) lol Love from the other side of the Ocean, KIMCHI!!!

ROOMIES by Graham Stark www.loading-ready-run.com gstark@uvic.ca


Oh man! That was great! I love the fair!
I've forgotten all my cares and troubles.
Oh. Right.
I don't think we're going to find anything worth salvaging in all this rubble.
Uh, guys? I found something under here. I think you should see this.
It's... Ramen's bowl...
While I didn't appreciate being hit on by a rancid bowl of leftovers, I am sorry to see him go like this.
Guys? Hey guys?
Poor... thing.
I don't feel so good.
MUA HA HA HA!

SAM & FUZZY ©2005 BY SAM LOGAN.

AM I MISSING SOMETHING HERE?
WHEN DID SOME MIDDLE-CLASS KID'S SPORTS TEAM BECOME A CHARITABLE CAUSE? IT'S JUST A GAME!
OH, I DON'T KNOW...
...GAME OR NOT, IT'S GOOD FOR KIDS! AMATEUR SPORTS TEACHES IMPORTANT VALUES LIKE TEAM-WORK AND SPORTSMANSHIP!
THAT'S PRETTY WORTHWHILE, DON'T YOU THINK?
ANDREA, THE ONLY THING THAT KID IS BEING TAUGHT IS THAT IT'S OK TO SUCKER PEOPLE INTO PAYING FOR YOU TO TRAVEL TO EXOTIC COUNTRIES AND PLAY SILLY GAMES ALL DAY.
FORGET AMATEUR SPORTS. THIS KID IS READY FOR THE PROS!
SO, HOW MANY BOXES OF COOKIES DID YOU BUY?
...SEVENTEEN.
SLOS!

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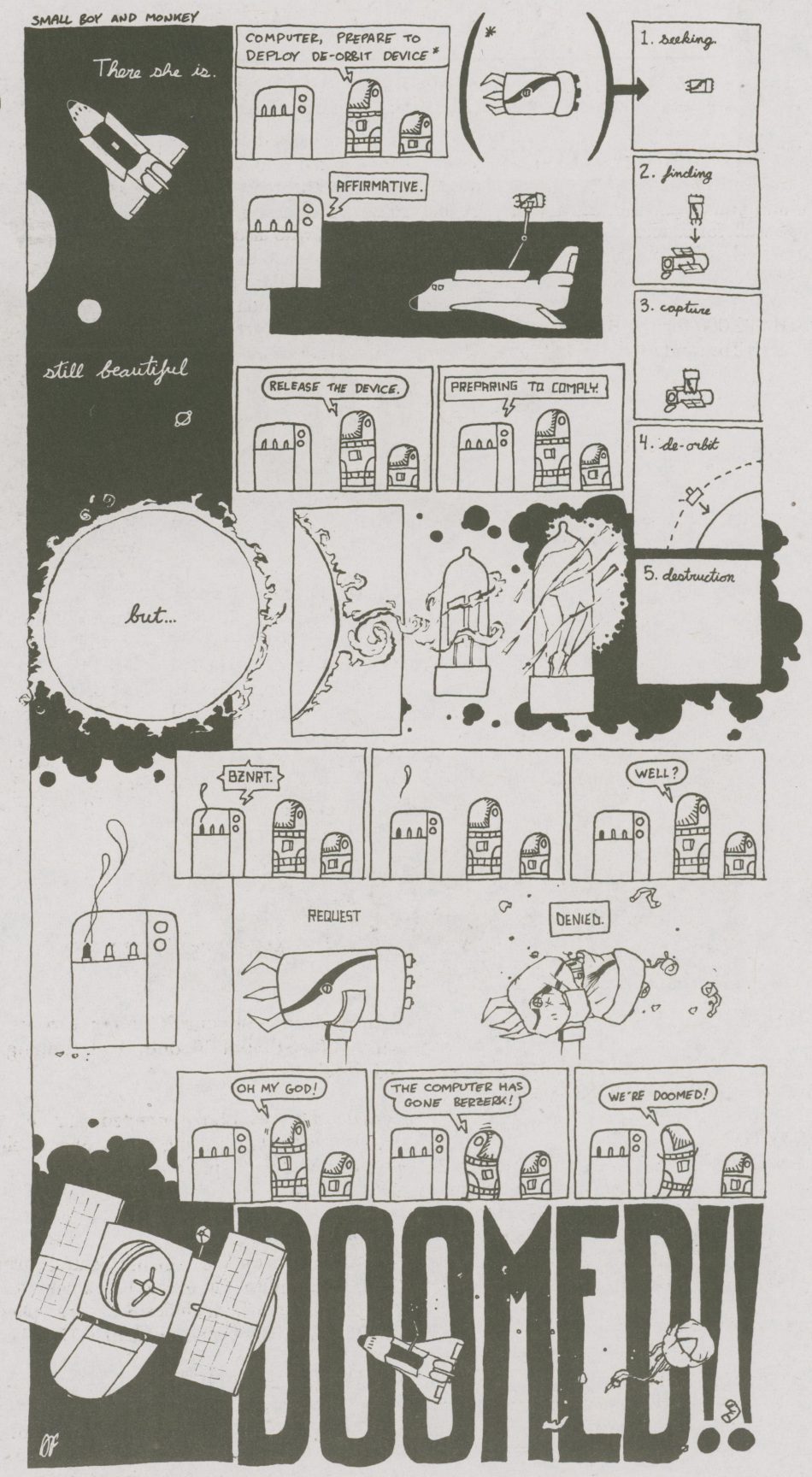
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE LEAVING.
I HAVE TO LEAVE! I'M STARTING SCHOOL!
BESIDES, WHAT ELSE AM I SUPPOSED TO DO? WASTE MY LIFE GOING NOWHERE OUT HERE? TEND SHEEP?
BUT I'M STAYING HERE! AM I SUPPOSED TO WASTE MY LIFE? AM I NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU?
ERIC, YOU NEVER SAID ANYTHING. I'M NOT ABANDONING YOU ON PURPOSE!
SO, IF I ASK, YOU'LL TAKE ME WITH YOU?
OF COURSE!! ...WELL NOT NOW. IT'S A BIT LATE FOR THAT. SEE YOU AT CHRISTMAS!
LAMPS
VROOOM!
I'M ALONE. UTTERLY ALONE. EMMA DON'T YOU KNOW I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU?
BAA!
SCREECH!!!!
YOU CAME BACK FOR ME!
MATE, YOU OWE ME $40! I'M NOT LEAVING WITHOUT THAT. THERE'S STILL NO ROOM FOR YOU IN THE CAR.
GREAT. NOW I'M BROKE AND ALONE.
BAA!

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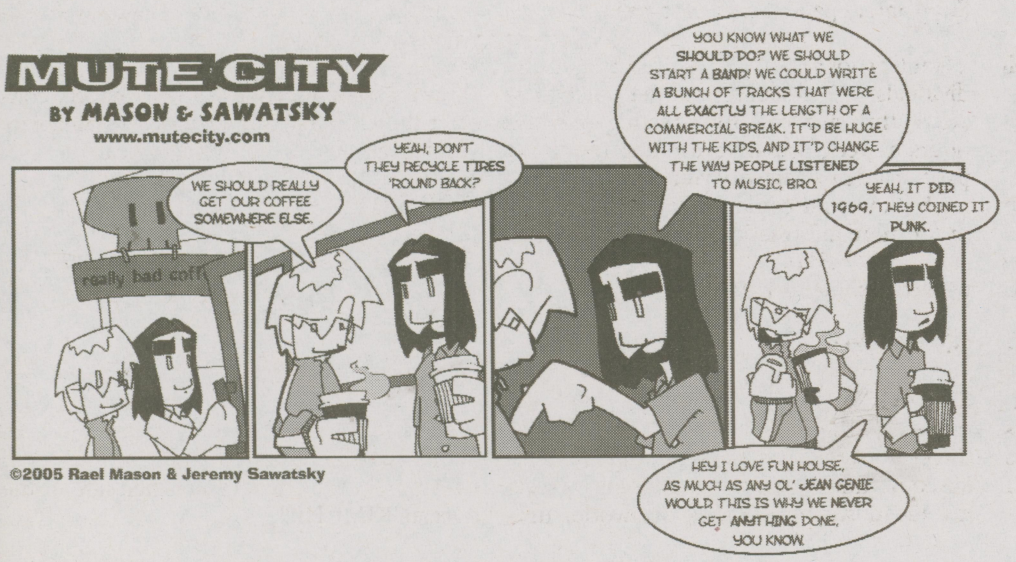
WE SHOULD REALLY GET OUR COFFEE SOMEWHERE ELSE.
really bad coffee
YEAH, DON'T THEY RECYCLE TIRES 'ROUND BACK?
YOU KNOW WHAT WE SHOULD DO? WE SHOULD START A BAND! WE COULD WRITE A BUNCH OF TRACKS THAT WERE ALL EXACTLY THE LENGTH OF A COMMERCIAL BREAK. IT'D BE HUGE WITH THE KIDS, AND IT'D CHANGE THE WAY PEOPLE LISTENED TO MUSIC, BRO.
YEAH, IT DID 1964, THEY COINED IT PUNK.
HEY I LOVE FUN HOUSE, AS MUCH AS ANY OL' JEAN GENIE WOULD THIS IS WHY WE NEVER GET ANYTHING DONE, YOU KNOW.

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The Martlet is giving 3 lucky people a FREE full event pass to the 2005 Merritt Mountain Music Festival!

Each pass gives the holder full 4-day access to the grounds, the concerts and free camping!
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Drop boxes in the SUB: One to the right of the Cinecenta entrance, and another in the Martlet office, downstairs in SUB B011. Limit 3 entries per person.

CONTEST CLOSES JUNE 15th

To win, fill out this entry form & drop it off in the SUB at UVic. There are two drop boxes: One to the right of the Cinecenta entrance, and another in the Martlet office, downstairs in SUB B011.

LIMIT 3 ENTRIES PER PERSON.

CONTEST CLOSES JUNE 15th

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